

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the paragraph at page 7, line 7 as follows:

--The surface porosity of a cutting edge or other ~~surfaces~~surface areas coming into contact with tissue during a surgical incision must be decreased below about 10-12 nm and preferably below about 50 angstroms to inhibit prion loading. This decrease in prion load reduces subsequent transmission of an infecting prion.--